

**GOVERNMENT OF INDIA  
WATER RESOURCES  
LOK SABHA**

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:3396  
ANSWERED ON:29.07.2009  
JOINT TECHNICAL TEAM ON FLOOD MANAGEMENT  
Verma Smt. Usha

**Will the Minister of WATER RESOURCES be pleased to state:**

- (a) whether a Joint Group of Experts (JGE) and a Joint Technical Team (JTT) on flood management have been constituted;
- (b) if so, the details thereof alongwith the recommendations made by them; and
- (c) the reaction of the Government thereto?

**Answer**

MINISTER OF THE STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF WATER RESOURCES (SHRI VINCENT H. PALA)

(a) Yes, Madam.

(b) & (c) A Joint Group of Experts (JGE) on Flood Management has been constituted between India and Bhutan to discuss and assess the probable causes and effects of the recurring floods and erosion in the southern foothills of Bhutan and adjoining plains in India and recommend to both Governments appropriate and mutually acceptable remedial measures.

The first meeting of JGE was held in Bhutan from 1st to 5th November, 2004. The JGE had series of discussions and also made field visits to some of the affected areas which included the sites prone to landslides and dolomite mining areas. Based on the discussions, the JGE felt that a more detailed technical examination is required and accordingly a Joint Technical Team (JTT) under the Chairmanship of Member (PID), North Bengal Flood Control Commission was constituted.

JTT held its first meeting in April, 2005 and studied some sources of sediment load, nature of slides and suggested further studies and preparation of maps to be taken up for deciding remedial measures to be recommended by the JTT. JTT also recommended in its preliminary report the followings short term and long term remedial measures.

- (i) Delineation and inventory of micro and macro watersheds common to India and Bhutan.
- (ii) Identification of potential hazard zones and presentation of zonation maps.
- (iii) Impact assessment of degradation in the upper reaches and the impacts on fluvial dynamics of rivers of North Bengal.
- (iv) Impact assessment of land use pattern.
- (v) Frequency and periodicity of extreme events (rainstorms) in the areas of adjoining Bhutan and North Bengal.

Second meeting of JGE was held on February 26-27, 2008 at New Delhi. In the meeting, the preliminary report of Joint Technical Team, report of Joint visit (Dec. 2006) by India - Bhutan Experts Team to Tsatichu Lake in Bhutan, Permission of Royal Government of Bhutan (RGoB) for construction of bullheads (caged deflector) on river Manas near Mathanguri and the issue of sudden release of water from Hydro-electric projects in Bhutan leading to floods in Indian territory were discussed. After detailed discussions, the JTT was reconstituted with the modified Term of Reference (ToR) to include some rivers/streams to be identified by JTT based on their field visit, flowing from Bhutan into Assam, for further studies/recommendations for remedial measures. It was also recommended by JGE that the JTT should recommend specific studies required for qualitative and quantitative sediment assessment for rivers. In regard to short term and long term measures indicated in JTT report it was decided that JTT may review and provide the specific recommendations. Further, during the meeting, it was decided to undertake another joint visit by India and Bhutan Experts Teams to the landslide dam (Tsatichu) site in 2008. In the meeting it was also recommended that the JGE should meet twice a year.

The recommendations of the 2nd meeting of JGE were accepted by the Government and the JTT has been reconstituted with Chief Engineer, Central Water Commission, Shillong as Leader of Indian side.